

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A stent delivery system to facilitate introduction and placement of a stent, including a catheter having an expandable distal portion constructed and arranged 5 for expanding the outer diameter of the catheter from a contracted state to an expanded state. The stent is positioned around the distal portion of the catheter and is thereby expanded. The system further comprises retaining sleeves which are attached to the catheter and abut the ends of the stent to prevent axial movement and to aid in the retention of the stent.

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